



**To: CINMS Advisory Council**

**From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative**

**Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 2/13/07**

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on February 13, 2007. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Deborah McArdle, Shiva Polefka (EDC).

Other participants included Jon Day (Director, Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia), Tracey Duffy (California Coastal Commission), Gail Osherenko (Bren School), Sylvia Cunningham (EDC intern), Celia Williams (EDC intern).

CINMS staff: Sean Hastings, Mike Murray, Danielle Lipski.

## **I. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Introductions were made.

## **II. OCEAN ZONING**

Jon Day (Director, Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia) provided a presentation regarding ocean zoning in the Great Barrier Reef. He talked about the types of zoning, the process for establishing zones, the monitoring results, and compliance and enforcement issues. Approximately 33% of the GBR has been set aside as “no take” zones. However, Jon was quick to point out that the percentage of protected areas not as important as ensuring that the zones contain adequate representations of important bioregions. Jon also pointed out that management and enforcement have been very effective because several agencies share responsibilities and work from the same regulations. In fact, Federal jurisdiction completely overlaps State waters. Finally, Jon concluded that compliance has improved as fishers have observed the success of the protected areas.

Following Jon’s presentation, the CWG and public participants engaged in a lively discussion, asking several questions about the GBR program and how that program might provide valuable insight into the consideration of marine reserves in the CINMS. For more information about the GBR zonal management system, please visit [www.gbrrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrrmpa.gov.au).

### **III. OPEN OCEAN AQUACULTURE**

Shiva provided an update regarding comments received on the draft OOA report. Although the deadline for comment was today, he is still waiting to hear from some SAC members who have asked to provide input. As he receives comments, he will work with interested CWG members and experts to determine how such comments may relate to the final report.

The CWG engaged in a discussion about one comment that questioned whether the recommendations to prohibit raising of non-native, carnivorous and genetically modified fish would preclude finfish OOA in our region. Shiva will research this issue. In general, CWG and public participants agreed that it is most important to set clear standards, based on legitimate concerns, and then review proposals to determine whether they can satisfy such standards. Jon Day pointed out that such an approach would be consistent with how OOA is addressed in Australia. They have strict standards, and not all proposals are able to meet such standards.

We are not sure whether we will have funding to support an OOA panel at the March 16 SAC meeting. CWG representatives and CINMS staff will engage in further discussions regarding the timing of the panel and presentation of the final report to the SAC.

### **IV. MARINE RESERVES UPDATE**

Sean Hastings reported that CINMS Staff has tabulated and compiled the overwhelmingly supportive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and drafted responses. The "internal draft Final EIS" has been sent to the west coast Sanctuary office, the next step on the pathway to a (April, 2007) public release of the FEIS.

### **V. MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Similarly, Sanctuary staff members have been compiling and responding to comments on the Draft Management Plan Update and EIS, which are less numerous but more detailed. The most extensive number of unique answerable comments was made by the CWG. The new State greywater discharge rules for large vessels and cruise ships established in the Clean Coast Act have caused the Sanctuary to develop an additional supplemental DEIS for the Management Plan in order to adopt new regulations that are consistent with current State standards. The supplemental DEIS for this proposed additional rulemaking may be released in April or May. The CINMS is currently targeting a late summer release for the Final EIS for the Management Plan Update.

### **VI. OTHER ISSUES**

The CWG also discussed other current affairs affecting the Channel Islands Region:

- A. Informal discussion was had regarding the status of the Cabrillo Port LNG proposal, and its interrelationships with at least two other proposals, including Energia Costa Azul in Baja, and the Clearwater Port proposal for Platform Grace.

- B. Grace Mariculture proponents are apparently constructing their aquaculture facility in a location in Mexico.